

135: FACE TO FACE



SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



114

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

ROBERT KIRKMAN
Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD
Penciler, Cover

STEFANO GAUDIANO
Inker

CLIFF RATHBURN
Gray Tones

RUS WOOTON
Letterer

DAVE STEWART
Cover Colors

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
Editor

Previously:

Barely surviving the Whisperer attack, Jesus rescues Darius and takes one of their attackers prisoner. Back at the Hilltop, two boys looking for some revenge blindside Carl and Sophia. Carl retaliates by savagely beating them with a shovel.

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Dan Petersen
operations manager

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office manager

Nick Palmer
operations coordinator

Lizzy Iverson
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Stephan Murillo
administrative assistant

International Inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing Inquiries: contact@skybound.com

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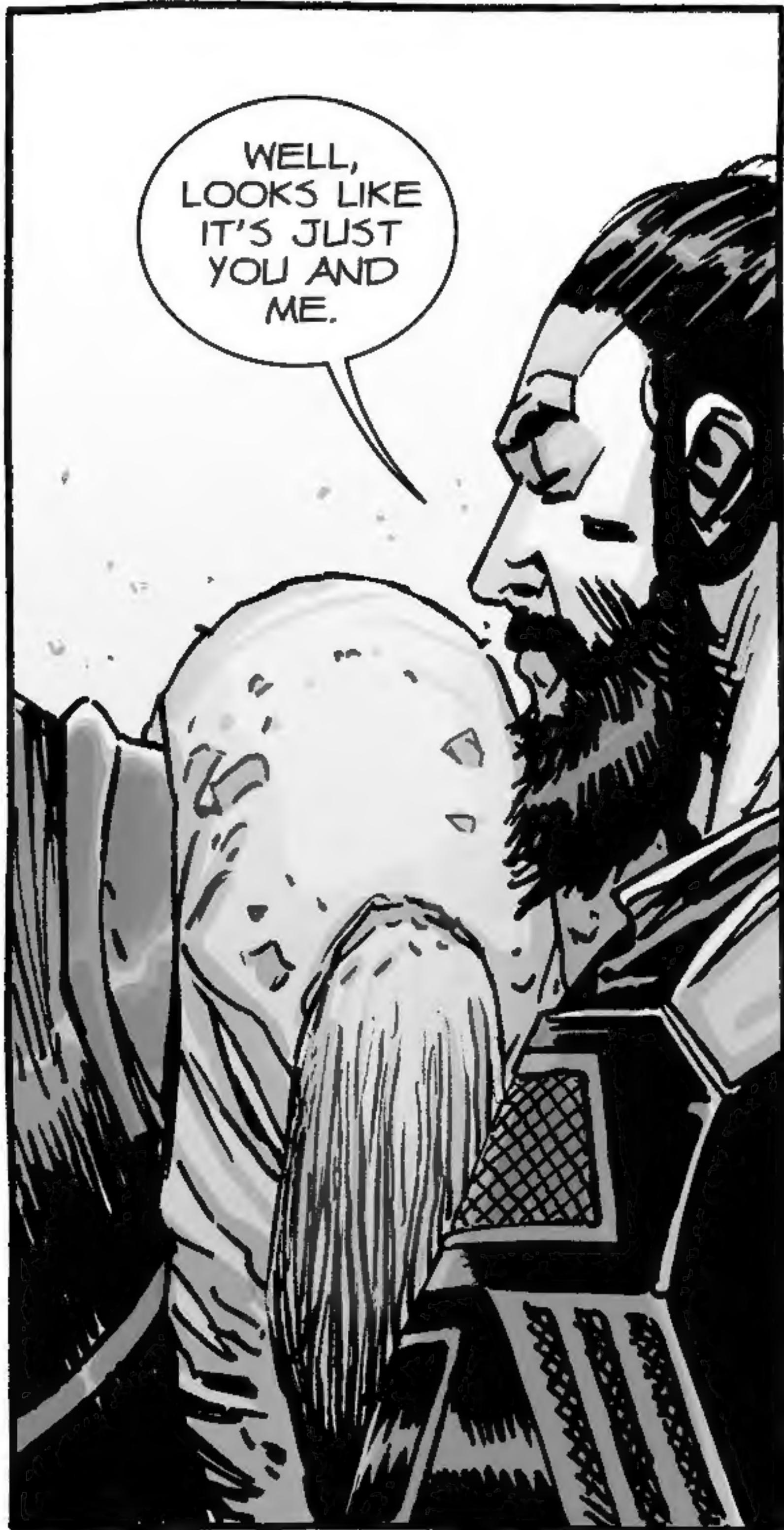
Addison Duke
production artist

Tricia Ramos
production assistant

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WHAT DO YOU THINK, ALEX? IS SHE GOING TO BE OKAY?

SHE'S PRETTY BANGED UP... AND SHE'S PROBABLY GOT A CONCUSSION... BUT I THINK SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE.



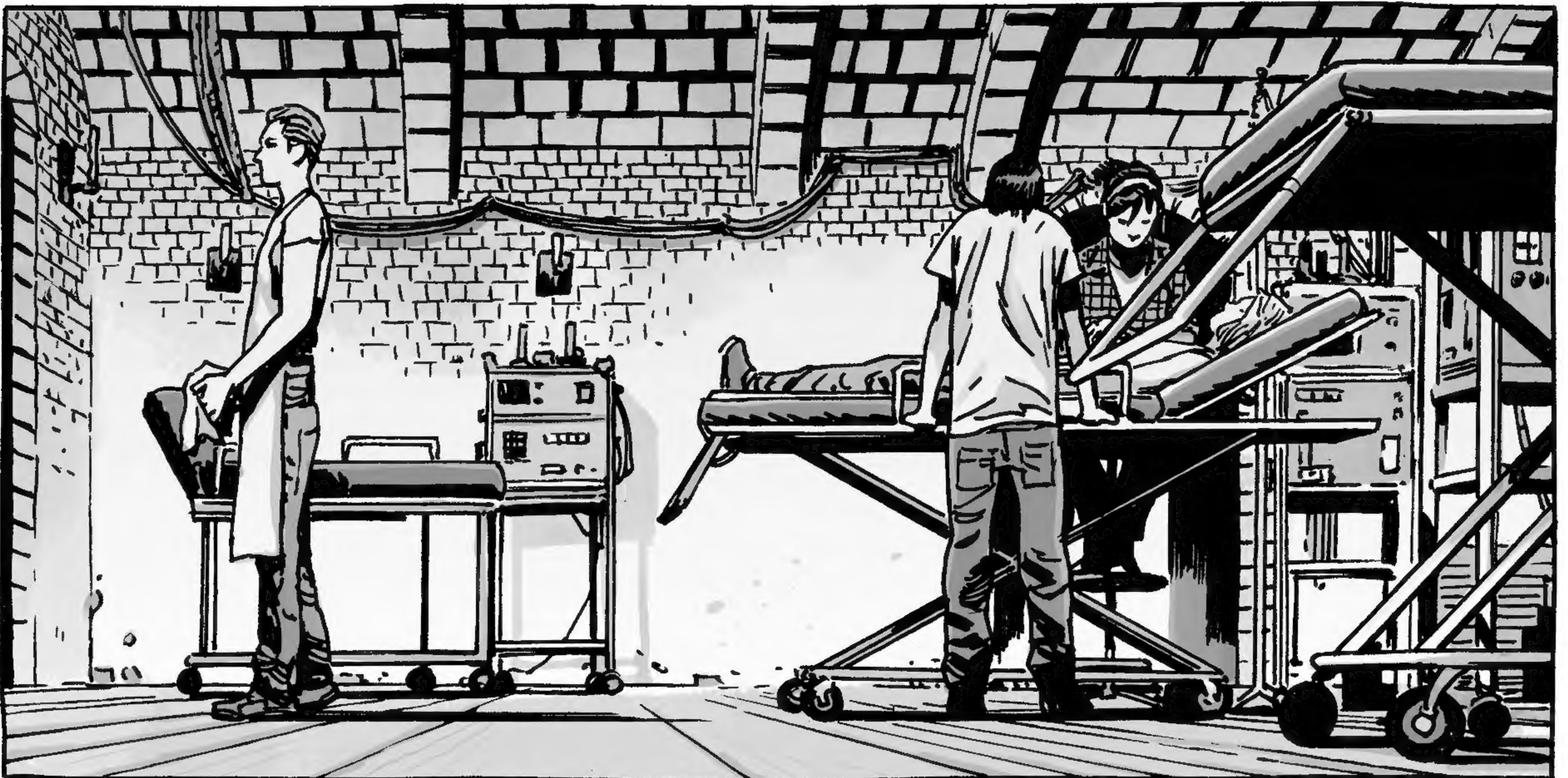
DOC CARSON NEEDS TO FINISH UP WITH DARIUS... THEN HE'LL PATCH HER UP.

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME.



TRY NOT TO WORRY, CARL. YOU HEARD ALEX. SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE.

I'M GLAD YOU WERE THERE FOR HER.







I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED, BUT LOOK AT MY DAUGHTER.

IT'S **CLEAR** WHAT HAPPENED HERE.



IT WAS SOPHIA ATTACKING THEM! THEY WERE JUST **DEFENDING** THEMSELVES.

SHE'D DONE IT BEFORE... THEY WERE SCARED OF HER. YOUR DAUGHTER IS **OUT OF CONTROL**.



THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED!



LOOK AT THIS BOY-- HE'S A MENACE. HE'S READY TO ATTACK US RIGHT NOW.

WE CAN'T HAVE HIM RUNNING AROUND ON HIS OWN. HE'S TOO **GODDAMN DANGEROUS**. JUST LOOK AT WHAT HE'S DONE.



BUT I...

I WAS JUST TRYING TO SAVE HER.



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?





I WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS. I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU.

LET'S START WITH... YOUR NAME?

OKAY, LYDIA... NOW FOR THE BIG ONE...

LYDIA



WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH THIS?



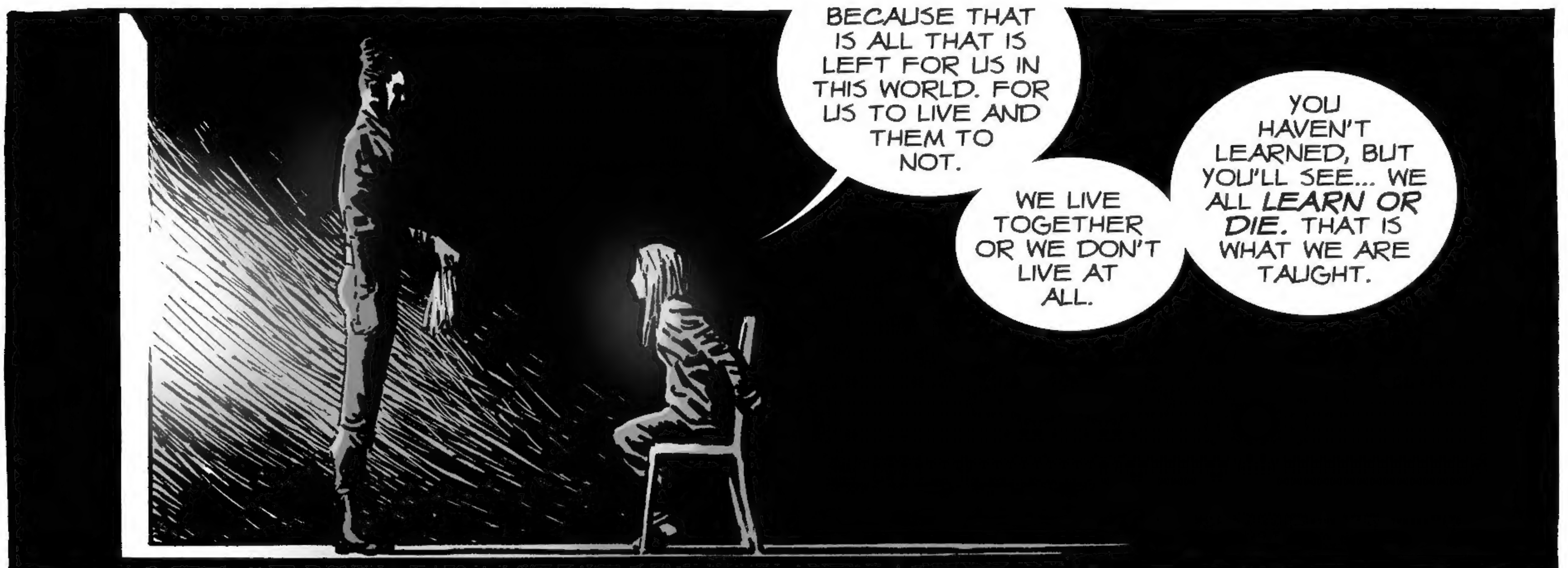
THE SKIN MAKES THE DEAD LEAVE US ALONE. WE TRAVEL WITH THEM. THEY PROTECT US...

...AND WE PROTECT THEM.



OKAY...

WHY?

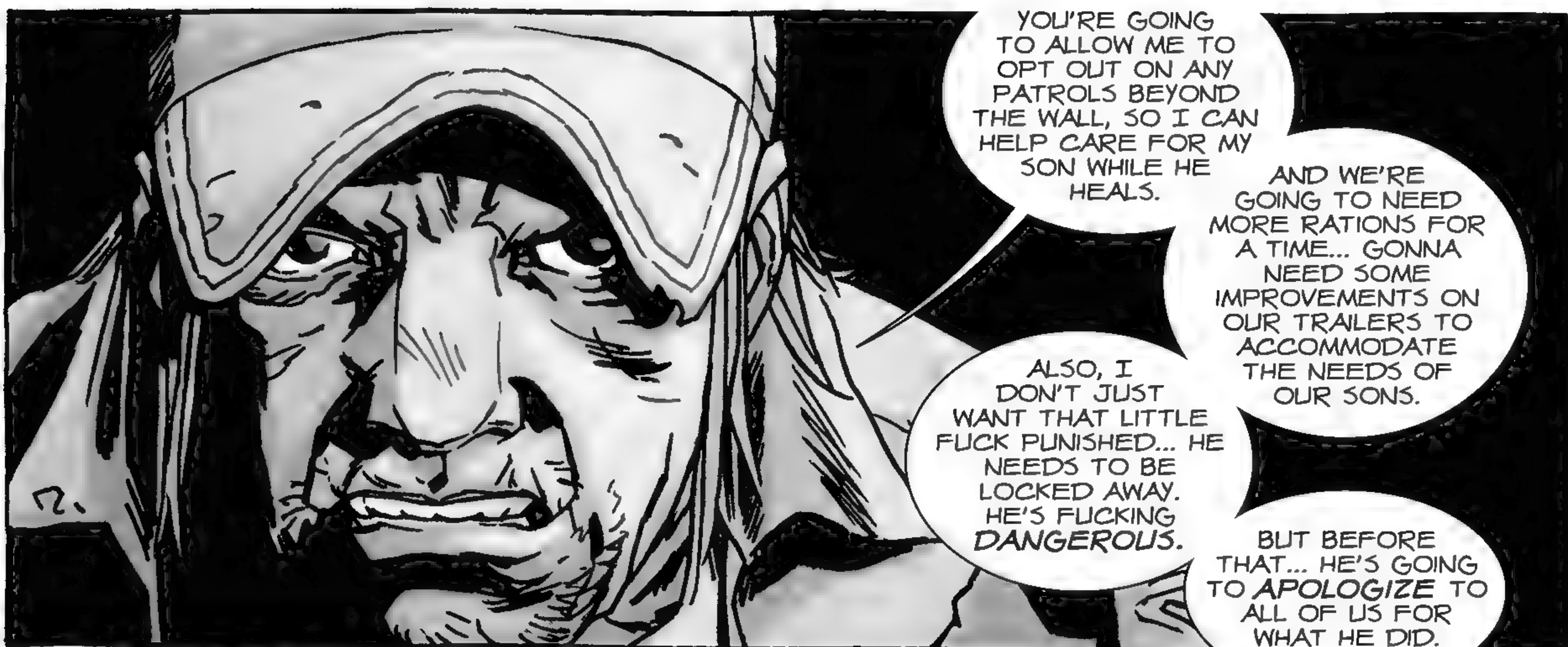


BECAUSE THAT IS ALL THAT IS LEFT FOR US IN THIS WORLD. FOR US TO LIVE AND THEM TO NOT.

WE LIVE TOGETHER OR WE DON'T LIVE AT ALL.

YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED, BUT YOU'LL SEE... WE ALL LEARN OR DIE. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TAUGHT.





YOU FUCKING
FUCKWADS
CAN GO FUCK
YOURSELVES.







HOW OLD ARE YOU?

I'M SIXTEEN.



YOUR GROUP SENDS OUT CHILDREN? THERE CAN'T BE THAT MANY OF YOU IF YOU'RE BEING SENT TO THE FRONT LINES.



THERE ARE NO CHILDREN ANYMORE.

CHILDHOOD WAS ALWAYS A MYTH BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ILLUSION OF SAFETY... IT WAS A LUXURY WE COULD NEVER REALLY AFFORD.



AREN'T YOU A RAY OF SUNSHINE?



WHY DID YOU LET ME LIVE? WHY BRING ME HERE? WHY DID YOU HAVE THAT MAN SEW UP MY SHOULDER? WHY ARE YOU KEEPING ME ALIVE?

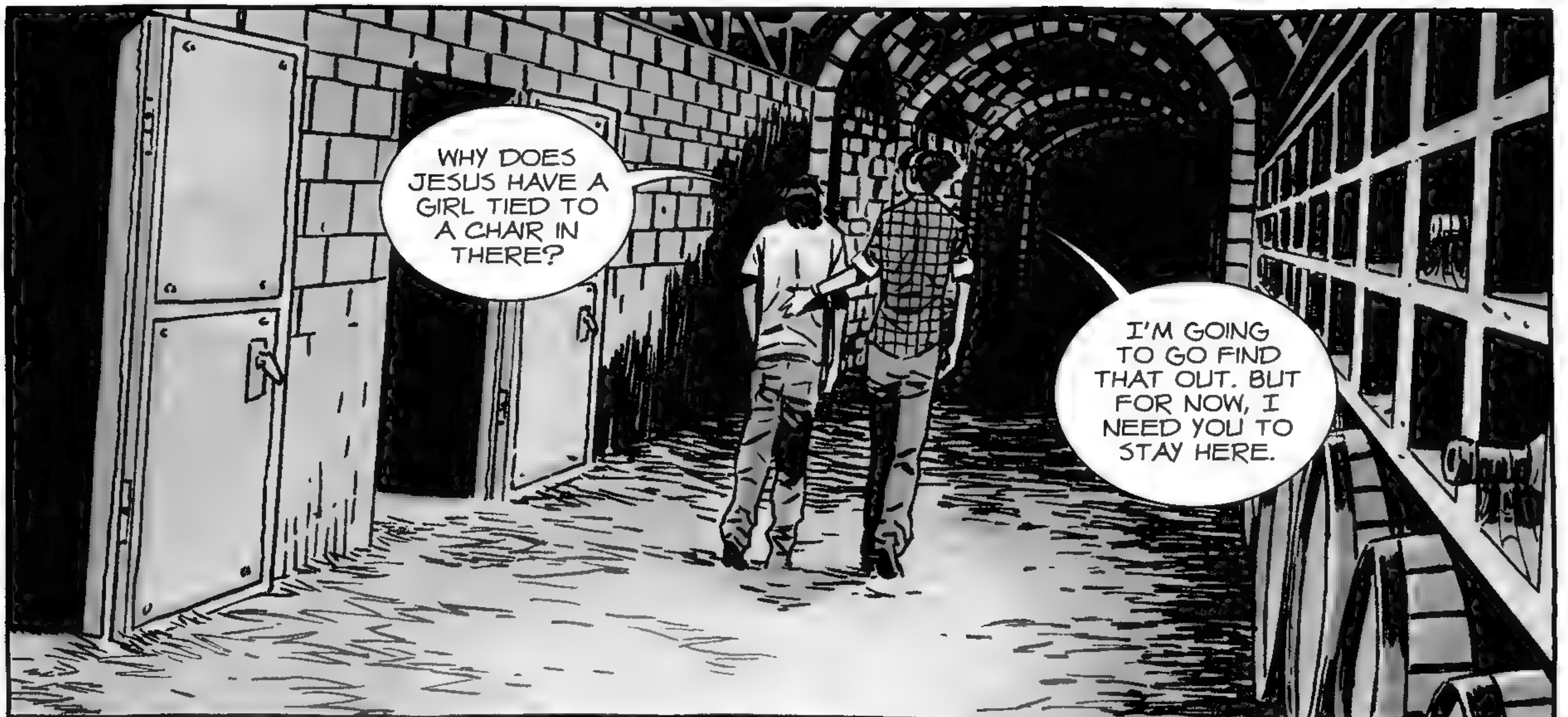
HOW ABOUT YOU LET ME ASK THE QUESTIONS HERE?



WHY DID YOU ATTACK US?

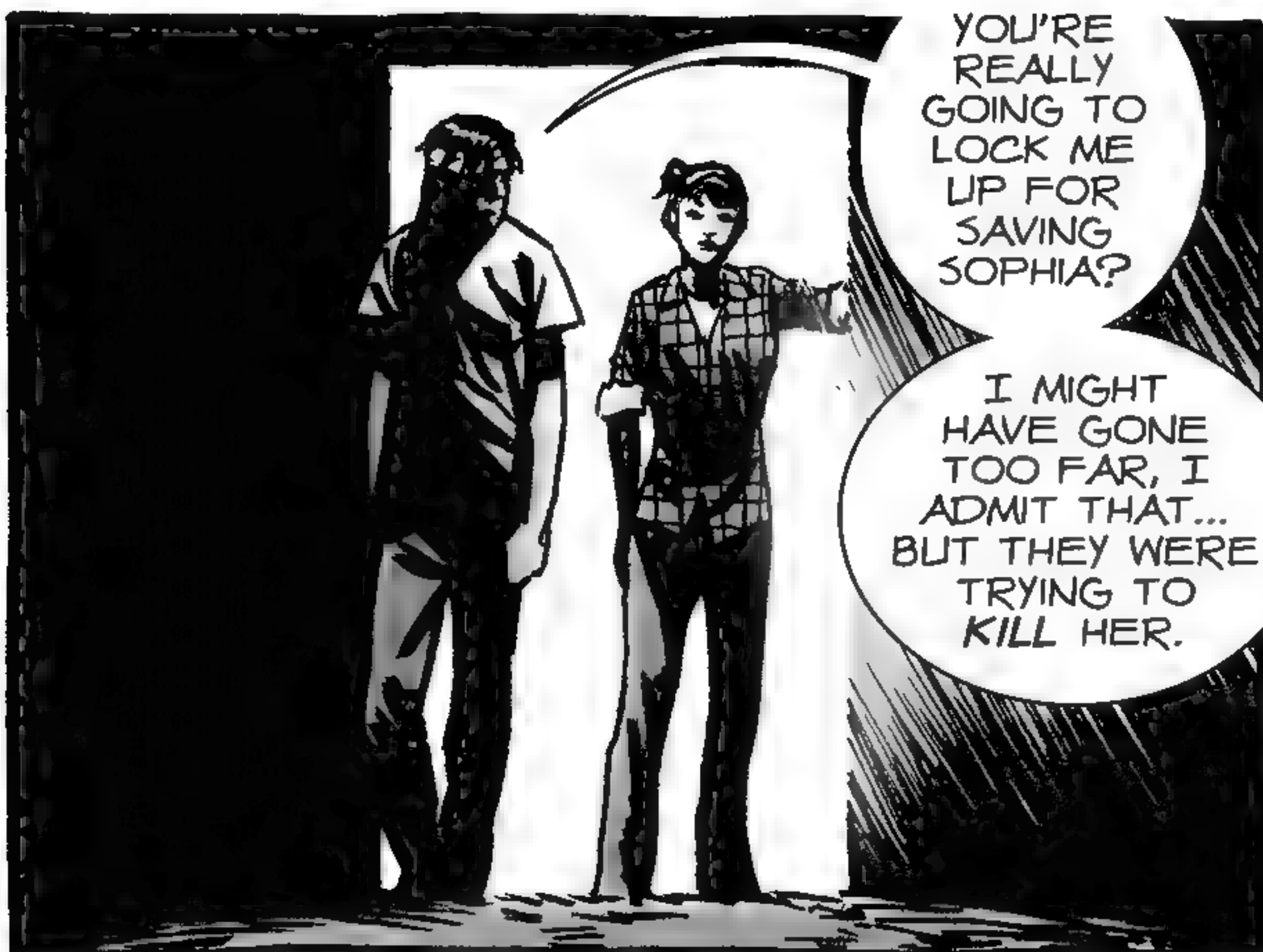


DO I NEED TO ASK AGAIN?



WHY DOES JESUS HAVE A GIRL TIED TO A CHAIR IN THERE?

I'M GOING TO GO FIND THAT OUT. BUT FOR NOW, I NEED YOU TO STAY HERE.



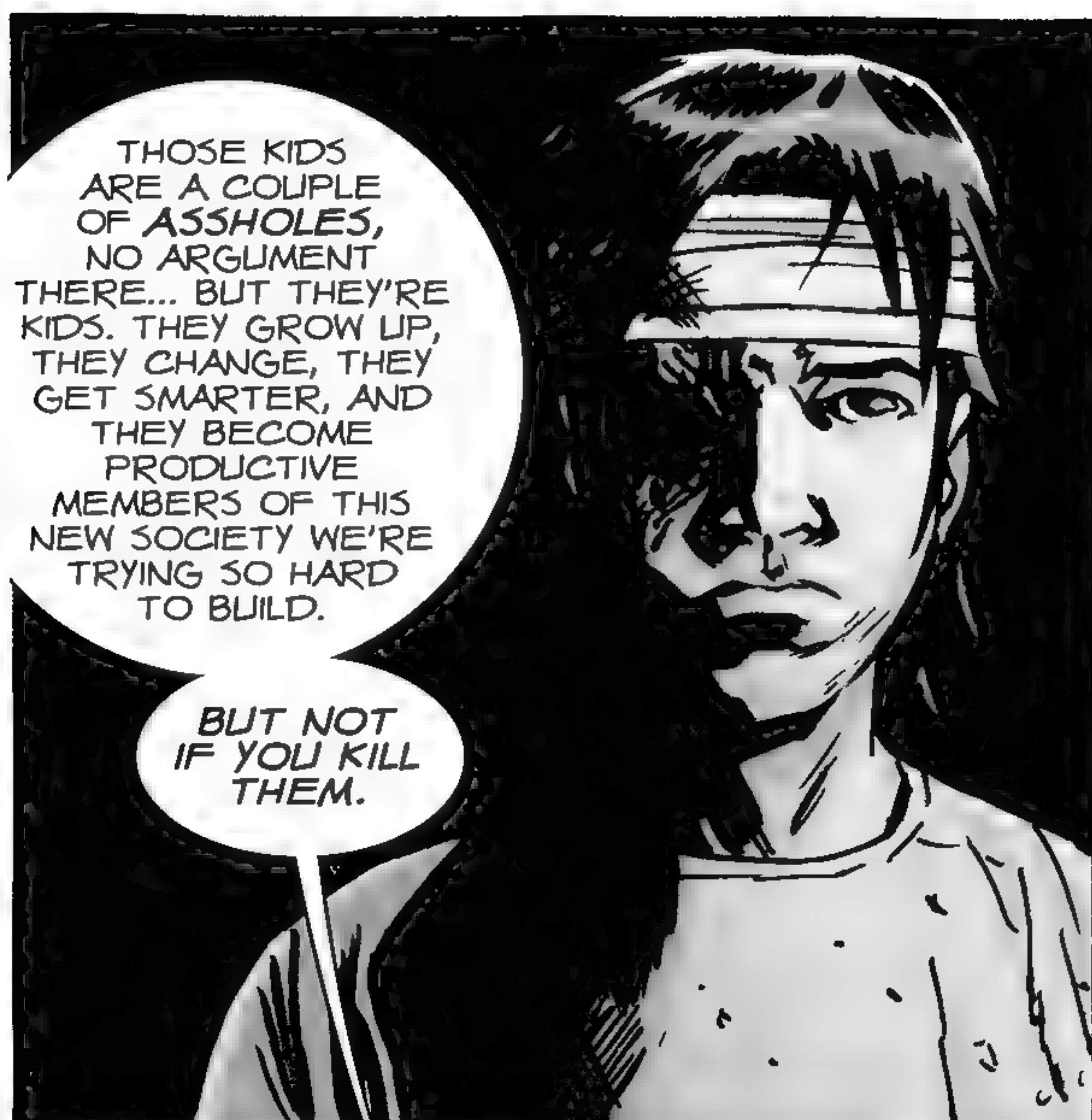
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO LOCK ME UP FOR SAVING SOPHIA?

I MIGHT HAVE GONE TOO FAR, I ADMIT THAT... BUT THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL HER.

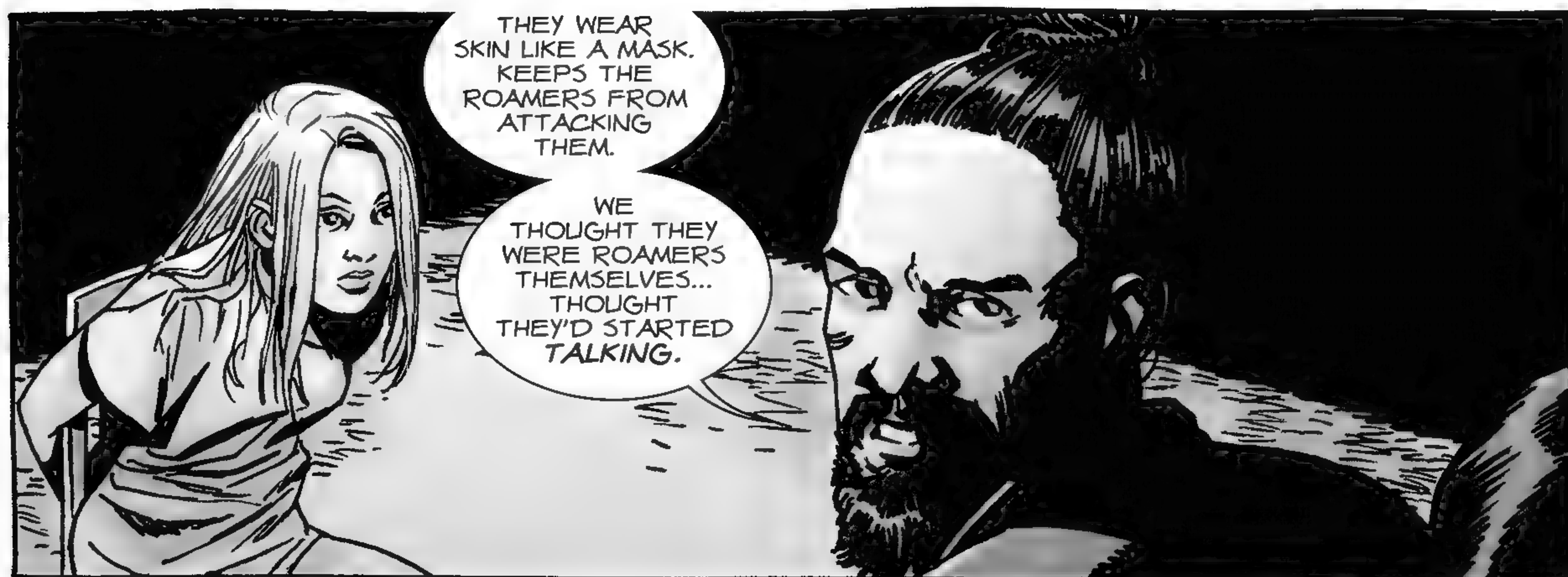


CARL, I...

PLEASE... JUST TRUST ME.

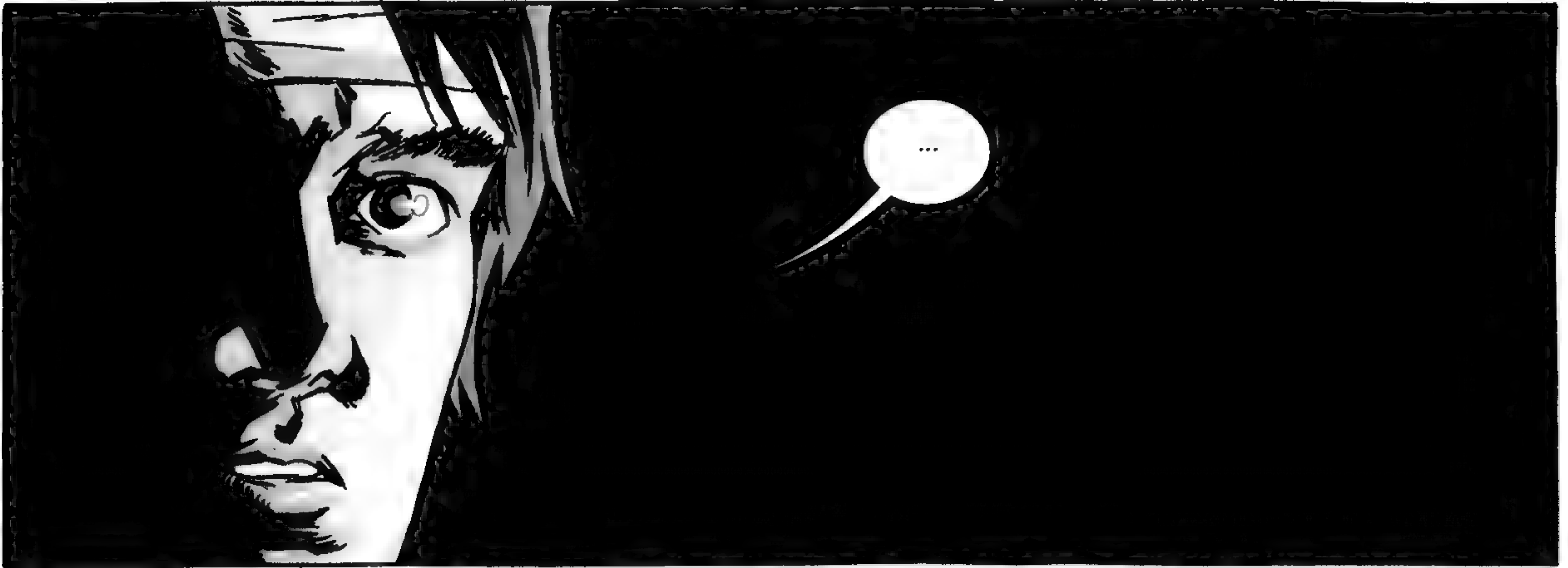














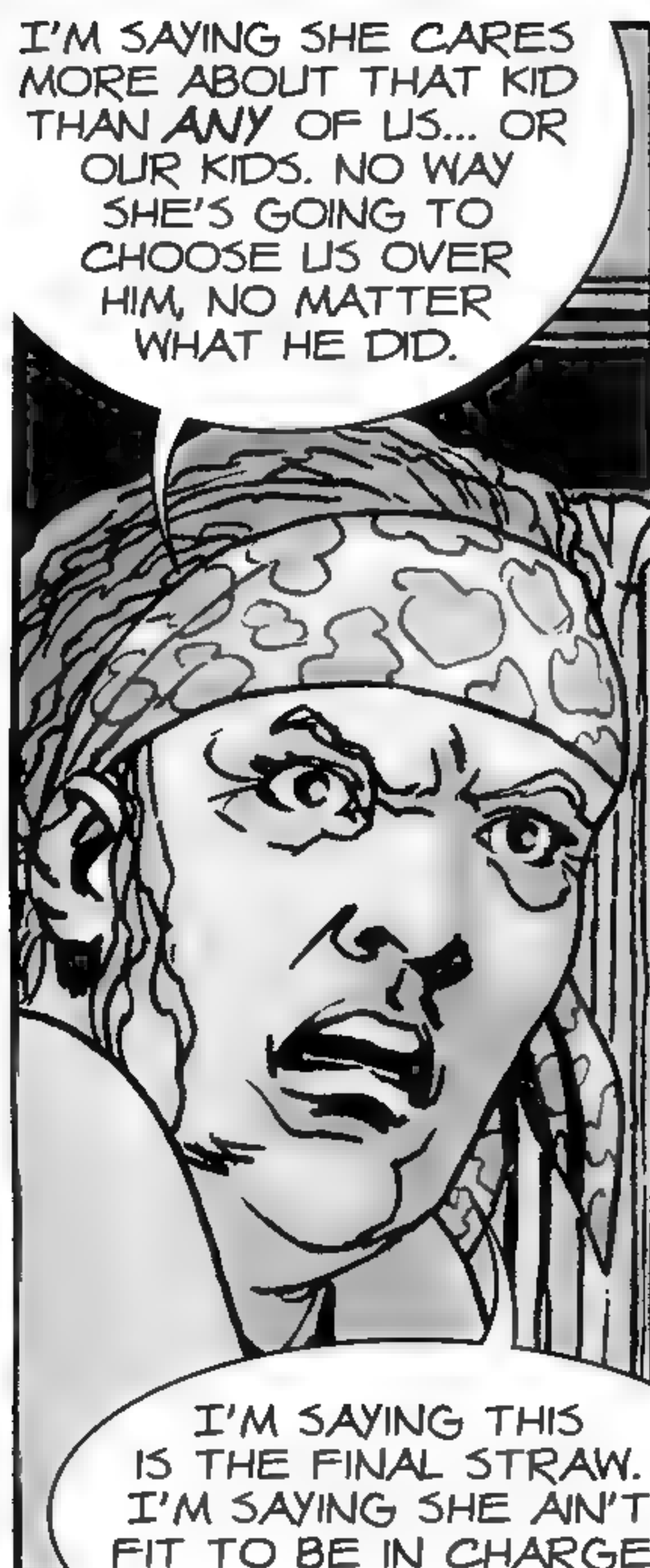
KID'S A GODDAMN POWDER KEG WAITING TO GO OFF. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HAVING HIM HERE. LOCKING HIM UP WON'T BE ENOUGH.

HE'S GOT TO GO.

MAGGIE AND THAT BOY'S FAMILY... THEY SURVIVED TOGETHER. YOU'VE HEARD THE STORIES.



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



I'M SAYING SHE CARES MORE ABOUT THAT KID THAN ANY OF US... OR OUR KIDS. NO WAY SHE'S GOING TO CHOOSE US OVER HIM, NO MATTER WHAT HE DID.

I'M SAYING THIS IS THE FINAL STRAW. I'M SAYING SHE AIN'T FIT TO BE IN CHARGE.



TAMMY'S RIGHT. SHIT'S GOTTEN OUT OF HAND. DANTE'S CREW AIN'T BACK YET, AND SHE'S JUST LEAVING THEM TO DIE. STILL REFUSING TO SEND SOMEONE AFTER THEM.

I HEAR YOU... IT'S NOT LIKE WE ELECTED THE BITCH. SHE JUST STARTED BOSSING PEOPLE AROUND, AND WE LET IT HAPPEN.



WHAT THE HELL DO WE DO?



WE COULD
ALWAYS JUST
KILL
HER.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Damn you, Gregory! Seriously, what is that guy's problem? He seems to go completely under the radar when it comes to being the most hated, and has secretly become captain of the All-Useless Squad since Spencer died. The hell with that guy.

What?! You don't like Gregory?! He's the new main character of the book! None of this Rick Grimes... move over Carl Grimes... we're never going to see Michonne again! It's all Gregory ALL THE TIME!

Letters!

Dear TWD,

First I want to thank you for the great read. I'm really enjoying the current story line. Thank you. I'm writing because I've noticed people complaining about Rick's look. I think Rick looks awesome. He looks war hardened. So shut yer cock holsters ya whiny fucking fucks!

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Britt in Kansas City

Feels like it's been too long since we took all our weirdos off the bench and set them loose in these pages. Welcome to this month.

What are you saying? Is it weird to love Rick's new look? If so... you can call me Miles Davis!

Finally two folks who can really begin to bring things back to normal for everyone, Louie and Larry. Having them around should ensure that any living body, even those who wearing face flesh masks (that would make Steve Buscemi from Con Air proud) would not want to put any sort of hiccup in a brand new booze distribution and supply. Thinking back on the days of high school when obtaining alcohol meant having to go though someone's older sibling or the one friend that had a passing illegitimate ID, one would always want to be in their best graces as to keep the goods chugging along. Everyone now in that world is like a high school kid, in regards to getting a stiff drink that is. In addition, everyone's tolerance is way, way down so Louie and Larry have the time to grow and meet demand, so things don't get out hand.

Any time you involve alcohol, things are going to get out of hand. Sobriety is probably the most valued attribute, besides like, knife skills or gun skills. You shouldn't be drunk around zombies.

Also, if you guys are looking for something to do with ALL your free time, which I imagine is a lot since you don't have your hands in any other sort of endeavors, I would very much like to drink an adult The Walking Dead beverage while reading a later issue (I do not expect this to coincide with the fair unveiling of their hooch). There are plenty of brewers/distillers that love all of your work and would be more than willing to collaborate with you guys. I'm probably wrong in thinking that this thought has not crossed your minds, but on the off chance that it hasn't and you pursue the fermentation process I fully expect a case delivered to my house for sparking the idea.

Clifford from Sacramento

Someone out there already put goat brains in a beer. I don't think we want to try to top that.

Agreed.

Hi Kirkman and the Kirkettes,

Quick niggle from #133.

If a walker is close enough to use a knife, it is almost close enough to bite a person. Fact. Jesus is uber-skilled at walker killing and wouldn't allow a gang of walkers to simply walk up to within biting distance of his group. Fact.

Bearing these TWD facts in mind, how did Jesus and his gang allow a bunch of walkie-talkies to get close enough to pull weapons and attack without even a sniff of a weapon being unsheathed in the name of defence?

Loving your work by the way!

Rich
Leeds, UK

They were very quiet... zombies sneak up on people all the time.

Dear Kirkman,

Can we PLEASE get a backstory issue of Abraham, Jesus, and Negan? I am dying to know what Negan did before the apocalypse. Or what he was like during the beginning of it. I also miss Abraham, I know you touched on it briefly when he, Rick and Carl were attacked on the road in issue 57, but I want to see it unfold, and Jesus is one of my favorites and I would like to know what he did before the apocalypse. So will we see them issues?

Damien Raynor
Jamestown, NY

The show just did a really good take on Abraham. I love the short stories Robert's done, but there really needs to be a compelling reason to tell them.

Exactly. We'll definitely get more info on Negan and Jesus at some point (possibly soon), but Abraham's story is told... except for on the TV show... where there is still plenty of story to tell. Enjoy!

Hey Robert,

I'm loving the new antagonist direction and I think you are going to outdo yourself with the new story arc. Can't wait to see a walker herd directed at the upcoming fair and these Whisperers looming in there! Hope they have enough ammo! Doesn't appear that close quarters fighting will cut it anymore.

I love the speculation... nice work.

Though this is really bringing up a lot of questions.

1. These Whispers seem pretty primal. Would they really want what Rick and his community has? Seems like they are just territorial like a hive of hornets.

A little more advanced than a hive, to be sure... but you're barking up the right tree. Stay tuned.

2. If these Whisperers walk with the walkers, do they have a mobile camp? Can't build a fire in front of walkers. Then I started to think, are these folks cave dwellers?

Not cave dwellers... but it's not exactly practical to sleep with walkers nearby.

3. I’m going to take a guess where these folks live. Crystal Grottoes Caverns, Boonsboro MD. 60 miles Northwest of DC. Two days by horseback. Just enough distance to where they and Rick’s group may not have encountered each other until Marco and Ken got off course. I nail it?

Nope... but thanks for playing!

Been reading since Dec 2012 when I binge read everything up to that point in a matter of days. This comic keeps getting better and better! Keep up the great work!

Matthew
Chicago, IL

Thanks, Matthew! I’ve always wondered what it’s like for a reader who reads ten years worth of comics in a couple days and then is trapped reading the books monthly from there on out... it must be weird. Glad you’re sticking around!

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I’m digging the character arc for Eugene so far. He’s come a long way from being the chubby, cowardly member of the gang. I’m not saying that he’s some sort of action hero now, but he’s got some serious depth. He lost a lot of weight for Rosita, and now he’s willing to forgive her infidelity and raise a kid that’s not even his? Damn. Either he’s an amazing guy, or he just doesn’t think that he deserves better.

So, which is it? If you don’t mind my asking, that is.

Keep reading?

Keep reading.

By the way, I can relate. I lost nearly 100 pounds as a cart pusher several years back. Just make sure that he doesn’t look like a body builder if the shirt ever comes off on-panel. Extra skin is a very real thing for people who lose that much weight during adulthood. It’s kind of a downer, honestly.

Keep up the awesome work, man. This series just keeps getting better and better.

Regards,
Shawn Brockmeier

Thanks! I’ll do my best... to never lose 100 lbs... loose skin...

To my beloved Kirkmainiacs,

First, I’ve just got to say that the show has come a long way in the last few seasons, and in just about every area. The characters seem more engaging, the dialogue is more fluid, and the action is absolutely top notch! TAAINTED MEAT!!

However, as excited as I am for the rest of season five, I absolutely cannot contain my excitement for what lies beyond issue 134. The stage is set for Carl to finally become the lead character, and the addition of the Whisperers ramped up the dark, menacing nature of his world that much more. I’m still a little fuzzy on how they resist infection in walker skins, but I trust you to at least give it a nod at some point. I also wasn’t too fond of Carl’s new look initially, but once he slicked his hair back, it clicked. Way to go, Mr. Adlard. Got to add though, you’ve got to show us The Kingdom and The Savivors! I’m assuming you’re withholding this information for a reason.. What’s the deal with Michonne?! Or Ezekiel for that matter!

Keep reading!

Between season five, the new comic arc, and season two of telltale’s masterwork series, I’m totally hyped up and back in the saddle for TWD! Thank you for the last five years (when I heard about it) of walker-gunk-covered entertainment.

P.S. If this ends up in the letter hacks when Rick dies, I am officially immortal.

Mitchell

Sorry to say, you’re slowly rotting like the rest of us flesh bags.

Dear Kirkman and Co,

I’m sending you that letter because I have a question and a suggestion.

First of all, I just want to say that I’m a huge fan of The Walking Dead Comic since t10 and the return in Kentucky with Abraham. Usually, I’m not a comic book’s reader but I’m must admit that the walking dead is the best graphic novel I have ever read. Of course, It has his ups and downs but real life has

it too so for me it’s not a big deal.

My question is: In issue 133, Andrea is proposing some coffee to Magna’s group. How can they still have coffee after more than 4 years. Have they found some supplies around Alexandria ? I think it will be strange because there is no way that there is still supplies after all that time.

Instant coffee? I wouldn’t imagine a pipeline has opened up from Hawaii or anything.

Yeah, instant coffee has a very long shelf life. They’re running out, for sure.

Maybe they have a partnership with a south-american community who brings them the coffee. In that case, do they also have some cocaine for the hardest times? No really, I want to know how is that possible?

You got a real thing for stimulants, huh?

That’s all I wanted to share with you. Just continue to bring us that amazing comic.

Sincerely
Eddy from Paris, your deepest french fan.

Thanks for writing in!

Hey guys,

Do people still surf in the new walker-infested world? If anybody is gonna be stoked for an apocalypse it’s gotta be surfers. Walking up to your favorite spot that used to have 75+ guys now empty except for a couple of dead dudes. I mean I guess it would take time away from gathering resources and stuff but I know I’m not the only one who would at least consider it. Anyways love the book, keep up the good work!

Aloha,
Taylor Riavic
San Diego, CA

Not so much surfing on the Atlantic, but yeah, I’d imagine if there were any folks still left in Hawaii, they’d catch a few tasty waves then go back home for some fresh Kona coffee.

You just printed this ridiculous surfing letter because you wanted to make the coffee joke. I approve.

Not true! It just worked out that way. We don’t print enough surfing letters!

Hey guys at the Walking Dead, this is my first time writing so I want to start this letter off like every fan boy by saying that I love the Walking Dead. But I will get right to the point. In the last issue, issue 133 if this is posted later, there was a point where Carl and Sofia were about to eat dinner together and Maggie and someone she was with made a joke about a “Grimes/Greene Union” and how it would get people talking. Being that Maggie and Rick both are leaders in these communities, a marriage between these two powerful families could be like a sharing of political power like in feudal Europe. Was that supposed to show that society, power, and politics will have to go through the same primitive trial and error periods before we start seeing more liberal democracies and free societies like today? Or am I just over analyzing the whole thing?

Hope my question made sense,

Love the show, Jake

Overanalyzing.

For sure. There’s some element to that... people being interested in marriages between “ruling families,” but it’s not like Carl would just inherit the title of leader if Rick dies.

Well, we got close to an all-weirdo Hacks. Maybe next month we can live the dream together. See you next month, when... well, you’ll find out soon enough.

-Sean Mackiewicz

This one was supposed to be weirder than normal? I certainly didn’t notice. You guys let me down! Write weirder letters! No... I’m kidding. Please don’t!

See you next month!

-Robert Kirkman

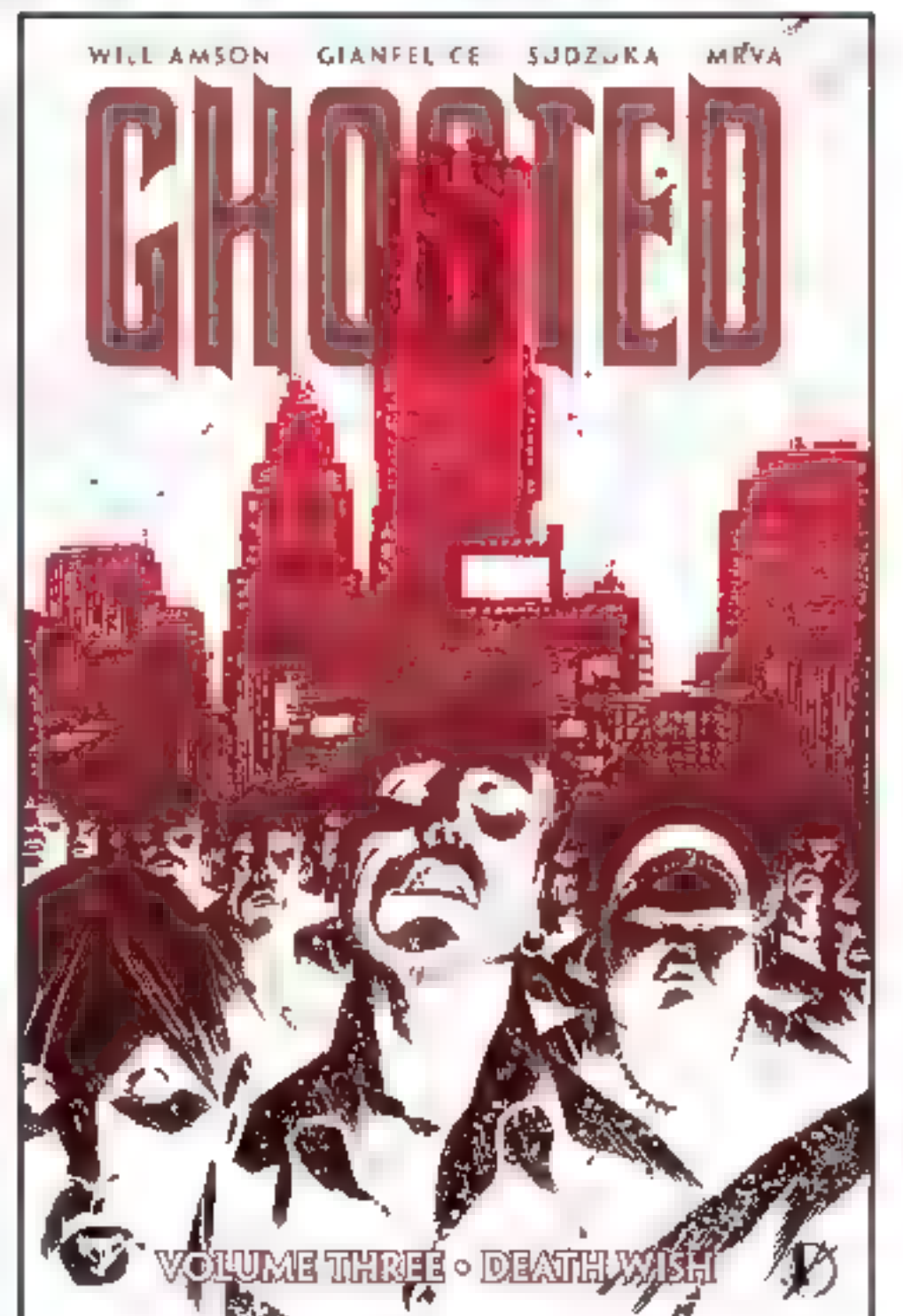
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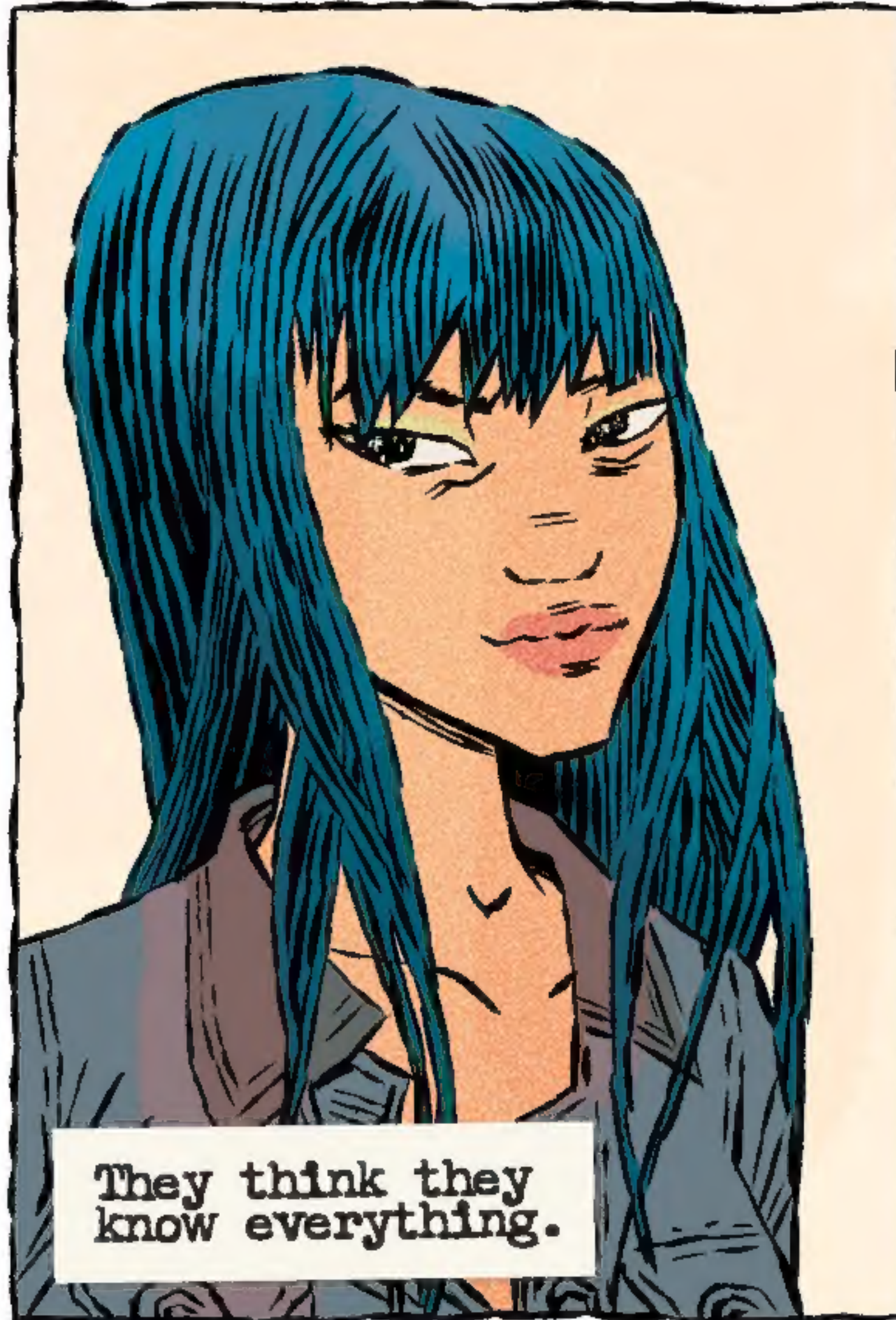
Generation after
generation, it's
the same old S.O.S.



There's no hope for
the future, because
young people think
only of themselves.



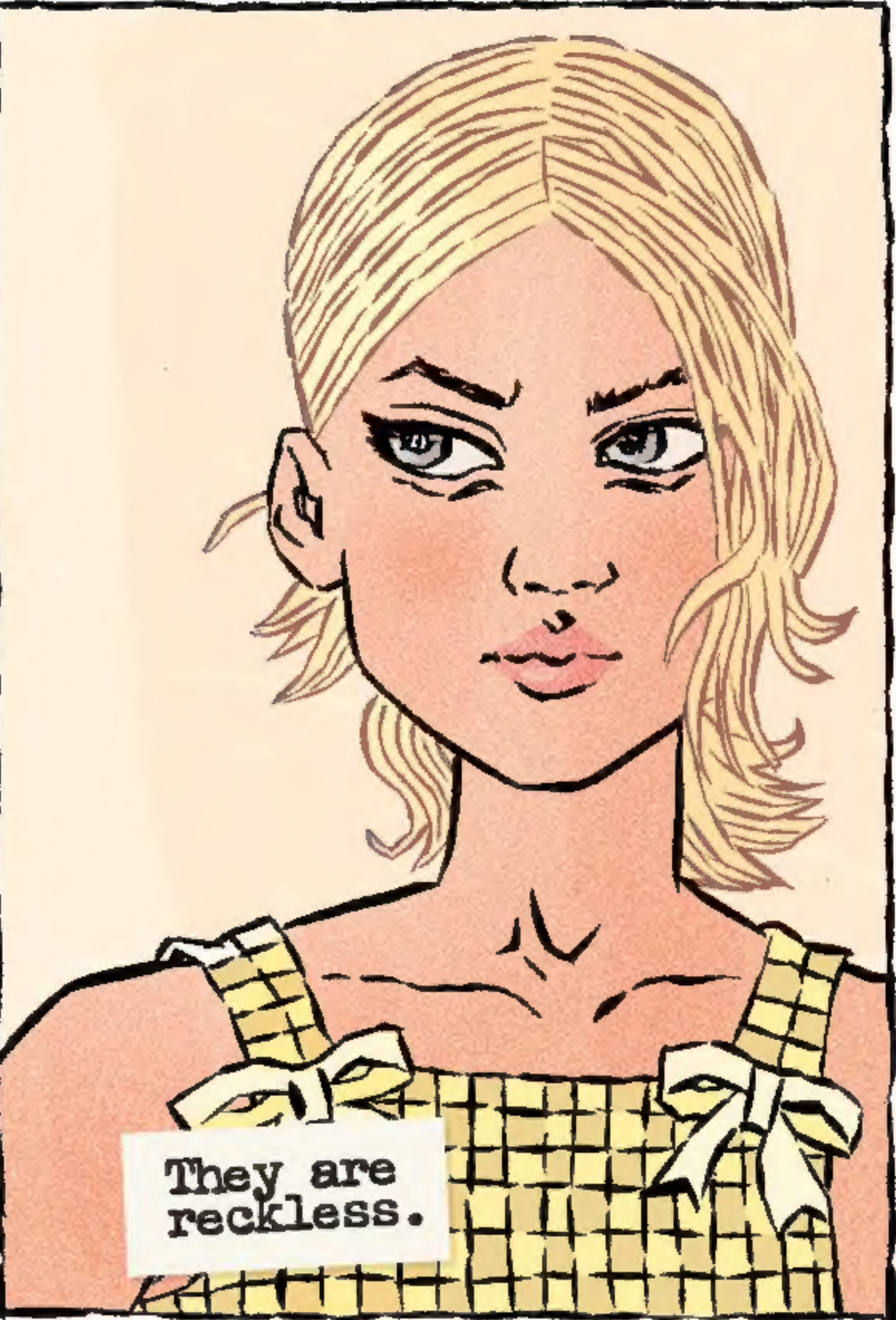
They have no
respect for
authority.



They think they
know everything.



They are
arrogant.



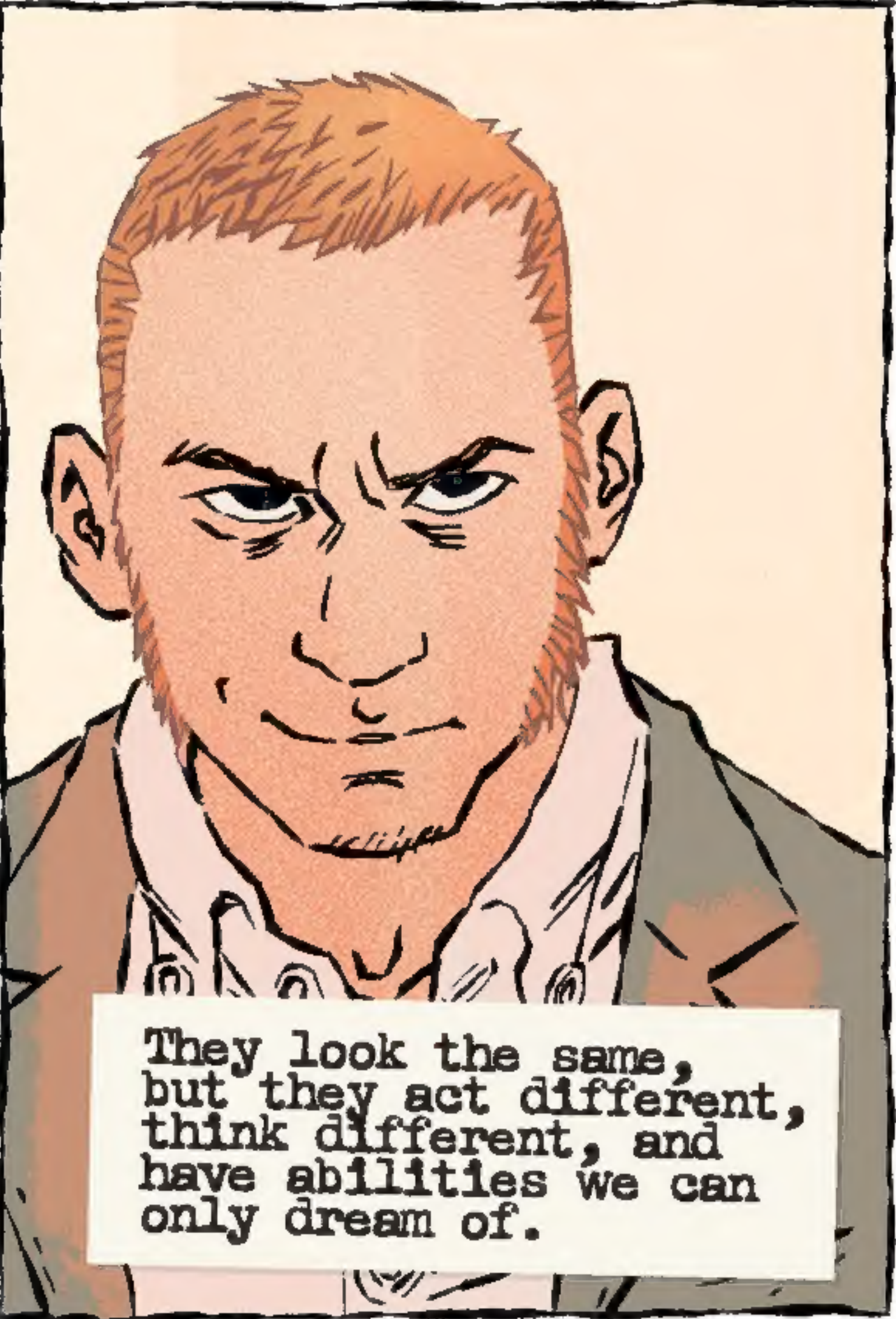
They are
reckless.



They want
to tear the
world apart.



In a time full of
possibilities, yet rife
with disappointment,
the youth are changing.



They look the same,
but they act different,
think different, and
have abilities we can
only dream of.

THEY'RE NOT LIKE US™

ERIC STEPHENSON • SIMON GANE • JORDIE BELLAIRE • FONOGRAFIKS

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KYLE BARNES HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY
DEMONIC POSSESSION ALL HIS LIFE.

NOW HE NEEDS ANSWERS.

OUTCAST

BY KIRKMAN
& AZACETA

VOLUME ONE

JANUARY

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